

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCI-06 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 SIL-01

USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /103 W
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R 211216Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9194

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEBAASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY MANILA

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS: PFOR, SENV, SCUL, BE

SUB: SPOKANE EXPO 1974; COMMISSIONER HENDERSON' MEETINGS
IN BRUSSELS

1. ON NOVEMBER 20 COMMISSIONER GENERAL HENDERSON HAD SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH COOLS, DEPUTY CHIEF OF ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL BUREAU, MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS; DAEMS, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN TRADE, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS; AND BARBASON, ASSISTANT CHIEF OF CABINET, MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.

2. COOLS, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING PARTICIPATION IN FAIRS, EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN BELGIAN PARTICIPATION AND
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DISCUSSED AUDIO-VISUAL CONCEPT WHICH WOULD PERMIT BELGIUM TO

DEVELOP NATIONAL EXHIBIT QUICKLY AND CHEAPLY. HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT DECISION WAS A POLITICAL ONE TO BE TAKEN BY MINISTERIAL LEVEL OF ECONOMICS MINISTRY AND THAT PRIMARY PROBLEMS WERE BEDGETARY.

3. DAEMS EXPRESSED TO CHARGE AND HENDERSON HIS READINESS TO SUPPORT BELGIAN PARTICIPATION, BUT POINTED OUT THAT THE DECISION HAD TO BE TAKEN BY THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. HE SAID HE WOULD PERSONALLY PHONE MINISTER CLAES TO URGE BELGIAN PARTICIPATION.

4. BARBASON FRANKLY ADMITTED DIFFICULTIES IN REACHING A POSITIVE DECISION BECAUSE OF BUDEGETARY CONSIDERATIONS, POINTING OUT THAT THE CABINET HAD ELIMINATED \$400,000 ORIGINALLY ALLOCATED FOR THIS PURPOSE FROM THE BUDGET. AFTER WE STRESSED THE INTEREST WHICH BELGIAN INDUSTRY MIGHT HAVE IN NATIONAL PARTICIPATION IN SPOKANE HE INSTRUCTED COOLS TO EXPLORE ON URGENT BASIS WITH FEDERATION OF BELGIAN ENTERPRISES AND BELGIAN INDUSTRY WHETHER THEY COULD SUPPORT GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION. WE REMINDED BARBASON OF THE LETTERS WHICH THE AMBASSADOR HAD SENT TO MINISTER CLAES AND MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE AS AN INDICATION OF THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO THIS MATTER. WE ALSO RECALLED TO BARBSON BAEYENS' EARLIER PROMISE THA BELGIUM WOULD PARTICIPATE IF ANY OTHER COMMON MARKET COUNTRY DID. BARBASON PROMISED TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO BRING ABOUT BELGIAN PARTICIPATION.

5. COMMENT: WHILE BARBASON'S RESPONSE NOT AS POSITIVE AS WE MIGHT HAVE HOPED, WE BELIEVE THERE IS STILL A REASONABLE CHANCE THAT BELGIUM WILL EVENTURALLY DECIDE TO PARTICIPATE. THE EMBASSY IS PLANNING TO SUPPLEMENT THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS' EFFORTS TO SECURE INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT WITH HIGH LEVEL APPROACHES OF OUR OWN TO APPROPRIATE INDUSTRIAL OFFICIALS AND ORGANIZATIONS. BOOCHEVER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT BUDGET, TRADE FAIRS, BUDGET DEFICITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BRUSSE06738
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731121/aaaaaoxu.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <06-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPOKANE EXPO 1974; COMMISSIONER HENDERSON' MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS
TAGS: PFOR, SENV, SCUL, BE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005